

# RULE 1511

## Recovery or Recycling of Refrigerants From Motor Vehicle Air Conditioners

### (A) General

- (1) **Purpose:** This rule prohibits release or disposal of refrigerants used in motor vehicle air conditioners and prohibits the sale of refrigerants in containers which contain less than 20 pounds of refrigerant to unauthorized persons.
- (2) **Applicability:** This rule is applicable to refrigerant retailers, and to any person who installs, replaces, or services motor vehicle air conditioners, or performs any other motor vehicle repairs, dismantling, or salvage that would cause release of refrigerants.

### (B) Definitions

For the purpose of this rule, the following definitions apply:

- (1) **"Approved Recovery Equipment"** - Is equipment for refrigerant recovery that is approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- (2) **"Approved Recycling Equipment"** - Is any refrigerant recycling equipment that has a certificate issued by Underwriters Laboratories (or another independent testing organization, as approved by the Air Pollution Control Officer) that the equipment meets or exceeds the applicable Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE standard J-1990) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standards of performance.
- (3) **"Approved Training Program"** - Is any training program that, at a minimum, is as stringent as specified in SAE standard J-1989 under the certification program of the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, or under a similar program of training and certification of the Mobile Air Conditioning Society (MACS), or such other program approved by the EPA.
- (4) **"Charging Equipment"** - Is equipment used to dispense refrigerant from gas cylinders.
- (5) **"Dispose"** - Is to discard refrigerant in any manner except destruction by incineration.

- (6) "Motor Vehicle" - Is any vehicle manufactured primarily for use on the public streets, roads, and highways.
- (7) "Motor Vehicle Air Conditioner" - Is any equipment using a refrigerant to cool the driver's or passenger compartment of any motor vehicle.
- (8) "Person" - Is any firm, business establishment, association, partnership, corporation, or individual, whether acting as principal, agent, employee, or other capacity, including any governmental entity or charitable organization.
- (9) "Recover" - Is to remove refrigerant in any condition from a system and store it in an external Department of Transportation (DOT) approved container, without necessarily testing or processing it in any way.
- (10) "Recycle" - Is to clean refrigerant for reuse by oil separation and single or multiple passes through moisture-absorption devices such as replaceable core filter-driers.
- (11) "Refrigerant" - Means any Class I or Class II substance used in a motor vehicle air conditioner. Class I and Class II compounds are listed in Appendix A of 40 C.F.R. Part 82, and include trichlorofluoromethane (CFC-11), dichlorodifluoromethane (CFC-12), trichlorofluoromethane (CFC-113), dichlorotetrafluoroethane (CFC-114), or chloropentafluoroethane (CFC-115); or any combinations of these compounds used in motor vehicle air conditioning equipment. Effective November 15, 1995, refrigerant shall also include any substitute substance.

## (C) Requirements

In accordance with provisions of [Section D](#), the following requirements shall be met:

### (1) PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

- (a) No person shall install, service, modify, or dispose of any motor vehicle air conditioner, or perform related automotive repairs or modifications that may cause release of refrigerants unless that person:
  - (i) Recovers or recycles all the refrigerant with approved refrigerant recovery or recycling equipment, and employs procedures for the use of the equipment as specified by the recovery or recycling equipment manufacturer; and
  - (ii) Does not dispose of refrigerants.

- (b) No person shall operate recovery or recycling equipment unless each individual performing work on motor vehicle air conditioners obtains a certificate of training of from an approved training program.
- (c) For every person who performs work on motor vehicle air conditioners, the original certificate of training from an approved training program shall be made available for inspection at the place of business where such work is performed.

(2) EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- (a) No person shall operate recovery, recycling, or charging equipment, except for the maintenance or repair of such equipment, unless the equipment, as tested at intervals specified in subsection (C)(2)(b), has no detectable leaks as determined by one of the following tests:
  - (i) An electronic halogen detector used in accordance to manufacturer's specifications, measured 1 centimeter away from any portion of the system; or
  - (ii) An alternate method approved by the EPA.
- (b) Leak tests, according to one of the methods set forth in subsection (C)(2)(a) on recovery, recycling, or charging equipment, shall be conducted every six months. Leaks in recovery, recycling, or charging equipment must be repaired within two (2) business days after a leak is first detected, unless the equipment is removed from service.

(3) PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Except as provided in subsection (C)(3)(b), no person shall add refrigerant to a vehicle unless the air conditioning system has no detectable leaks as determined by the following test procedure:
  - (i) The operator completes a visual inspection for obvious indications of leaks, and;
  - (ii) The system maintains a vacuum for a minimum of 10 minutes.

- (b) After completing the test procedure in subsection (C)(3)(a), refrigerant may be added in an amount not to exceed 25 percent of the motor vehicle air conditioner system capacity to test for leaks using one of the following methods:
  - (i) An electronic halogen detector used in accordance to manufacturer's specifications, measures one centimeter away from any portion of the system; or
  - (ii) Fluorescent tracer dyes injected through the system according to manufacturer's specifications and scanned with an ultra-violet lamp; or
  - (iii) An alternate method approved by the EPA.

(4) PROHIBITION OF SALE

No person shall sell, distribute, offer for sale or distribution, to any person (other than a duly certified person performing service for consideration on motor vehicle air-conditioning systems in compliance with this Rule) any refrigerants in containers with a capacity of less than 20 pounds.

Also, the seller must prominently display a sign, at the point of sale of such containers, which states:

"It is a violation of federal law to sell containers of Class I or Class II refrigerant of less than 20 pounds of such refrigerant to anyone who is not properly trained and certified to operate approved refrigerant recycling equipment."

(D) Compliance Schedule

- (1) Within 180 days after September 14, 1992, existing recovery or recycling equipment shall comply with District Rules 201 and 203.
- (2) On and after September 14, 1992, any person owning or operating recovery or recycling equipment shall comply with the requirements of Section (E) - Record keeping Requirements of this rule.
- (3) Within 90 days from September 14, 1992, any person who operates recovery or recycling equipment, or performs work on motor vehicle air conditioners, shall obtain a certificate of training from an approved training program.

## (E) Record Keeping

Records shall be maintained by persons subject to this rule for a minimum of two (2) years and made available to the Air Pollution Control Officer on request. Records shall include the following information:

### (1) MATERIALS

Pounds of refrigerants purchased, used, stored, and shipped-off site on a daily basis.

### (2) EQUIPMENT

Maintenance records for any recovery and recycling equipment, including the name of the person performing the maintenance, the dates that the maintenance was performed, results of leak tests, and records of what equipment was checked, modified, serviced, or replaced.

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